

**COMMUNITY AND HOME OPTIONS TO INSTITUTIONAL CARE
FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED (CHOICE)**

Board Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2009 – 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room A

402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN

CHOICE Board Members in Attendance: Blake Jackson, Senator Jean Breaux, Senator Vaneta Becker, Nick Petrone, Jean Macdonald, Prudence Twigg, Noble Stallons, Kay Crawford, Dr. F. Timothy Janis, Dorian Maples, John Holmes, Glenda Russell

CHOICE Board Members Absent: Pete Emigh

Visitors in Attendance: Justine Currie, Roxsandra Clemons-McFarthing, Lorealee Moore, Ruth Ratzlaff, Rick Maples, Ron Flickinger, Ann Allen, Cindy Wides, Sheri Phillips, Paul Chase, John Cardwell, Angie Amos, Becky Johnson, Linda Muckway, Amy DiStaulo, Megan Ornellas, Jade Luchauer, Celeste Stinson, Elizabeth Surgener

Call to Order: Chairperson Blake Jackson called the meeting to order.

Jean Macdonald asked the Board to send their condolences to John Holmes on the passing of his son.

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. The motion was seconded and received unanimous approval from the Board.

FSSA Division of Aging Update: Director Megan Ornellas provided the Division update. The Division has received over a million dollars in stimulus funds for the home delivered and congregate meals programs. This money will be distributed to the AAAs to be spent on meals.

Director Ornellas reported the number of people receiving home and community based services has increased 21%. There is no longer a waitlist for the A&D waiver and over a 1,000 individuals have been added to the Waiver program since January. The Division hopes to add 7,700 individuals by the end of the fiscal year.

The internal processing of care plans are down dramatically to the single digits. The Division has now revamped its system to track individuals once they come into contact with the area agency.

As a follow up to Board members questions at previous meetings, Director Ornellas addressed clients determined to be "No Longer in Need of Services." Of those, 41% of people voluntarily withdrew from the waitlist, 11% went into a nursing facility, 6% passed away, 13% were determined not medically eligible, 9% did not meet level of care requirements, and the remaining 20% were for other various reasons. The average time

on the waitlist was eight months. The clients that passed away were on the waitlist for an average of eight months as well, so there was no disparity in length of time on waitlist.

There has been a decline in home delivered and congregate meals, which is due to the severe weather much of the state experienced. This is the first decline in over a year since the Division has been tracking the program. Additionally, the CHOICE waitlist continues to decrease.

Jean Macdonald asked Director Ornellas if the CHOICE waitlist has decreased because those people are being targeted for the Waiver. Director Ornellas responded that she hopes that is the case. She stressed the importance of moving clients to the proper funding source. Senator Becker asked for clarification and if there was an order to placing people on funding sources. Director Ornellas said there is no specific order and that each funding source has specific eligibility requirements. Senator Breaux asked for a handout of eligibility requirements for the various funding sources and Director Ornellas said the Division would work on that for the next meeting.

Old Business: Celeste Stinson addressed a question Chairperson Jackson asked at the previous meeting regarding why Area 2's waitlist is larger than others. Celeste spoke with Area 2's Director, Joan Cuson, who said their CHOICE waitlist is larger than other area agencies because of the great need for services in their area. REAL Services is aggressively screening participants and enrolling everyone who is eligible on Waiver, as well as providing OPTONS counseling.

Chairperson Jackson asked for clarification about cost per client from 2007 to 2008 and Director Ornellas provided a response.

At the last meeting, Nick Petrone was asked if clients could receive food stamps and home delivered meals or congregate meals. He confirmed that a client could indeed receive both services. At the request of Senator Becker, he also confirmed that a person may contact the DFR call center to schedule a meeting at his or her local office. Senator Becker voiced her concerns and said she would like to see the DFR modernization project succeed.

New Business: There was a call for elections for a chairperson and a vice chairperson for the Board. Chairperson Jackson nominated Prudence Twigg for Chairperson and was seconded by Nick Petrone. The nomination was closed and Prudence Twigg was approved unanimously for Chairperson. Kay Crawford nominated Jean Macdonald for Vice Chairperson and was seconded by Prudence Twigg. The nomination was closed and Jean Macdonald was approved unanimously for Vice Chairperson.

Public Comments: Linda Muckway asked a question about Title III funding. There was debate about the question and Director Ornellas stated she would speak with Linda after the meeting to provide her with an answer.

John Cardwell discussed dollars spent on CHOICE clients and dollars spent on Waiver clients. He believes there are people currently on Waiver services who could save the State money by being on CHOICE services instead. He recommended this be part of the assessment process and an analysis should be conducted. John also discussed a company called Managed Health Services that may be coming to Indiana and he has concerns about this. Chairperson Twigg said the Board will keep it on their radar.

Chairperson Twigg asked anyone wishing to participate in Public Comments to sign in on the speaker sheet and provide a brief summary of their presentation. Senator Becker and the rest of the CHOICE Board thanked Blake Jackson for his service as Chairperson.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

